



FEDERAL HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION
Western Federal
Lands Highway
Division

CONSTRUCTION NEWSLETTER

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Bowdoin
NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE

BOWDOIN HEADQUARTERS PARKING AREA

Project MT RRP BOWD 900(1)

This week was productive, Hardrives Construction started Monday with trucks coming in from Jim Carney's rock pit with blended aggregate for Old Highway 2. In so many places the highway had lost its crown which helps shed the water. So the idea was to place new material to help build up that crown. Close to 600 tons were put down Monday on the Highway, shaped and rolled.

Then the subcontractor Norm Jones Construction from Missoula setup his Ingersoll-Rand milling machine and proceeded to chew through both the road and the rock we placed. Very similar to roto-tilling your garden except tougher. You might have seen the smoke from his machines exhaust as all 700 horses were working hard keeping that 6.5' wide drum of teeth cutting. He struggled in a few spots with the material wanting to plug the drum area and pulling down the drum rotation. However Norms crew, his son and one other helper knew all the tricks of the trade, so with more throttle and less momentum that milling beast just kept on chewing up old broken asphalt into usable gravel.

With the asphalt road ground up and laid out like fresh tilled soil it was up to Hardrives to water the mix, lay it back out and compact it enough to provide a temporary driving surface. This temporary surface will allow Hardrives time to get grade hubs in place. These grade hubs are what the grader operator will match, a guide to build the correct crown and smooth driving surface ready for asphalt. The surveyor Jay Springer from Havre has been here all this week and will return again next week setting up the grade hubs and construction control for the job. Next week Hardrives will be working on getting Old Highway 2 ready for asphalt which will likely take all of next week to accomplish.

We will again have flaggers on Old Highway 2 going out to the refuge but don't count on waiting long in line; likely the flagger will just turn the sign and wave you through. However if you travel that way and do go through the construction area keep your speed slow, and watch out for equipment moving around and folks working. With so little traffic sometimes workers can step back from their equipment and right into your path.

If you have any comments or concerns related to the construction please forward these to the listed Email address or call 360-907-0685. If you would like this Newsletter Emailed to you just send me a request to the Email address listed below.

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TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL, SEND YOUR REQUEST TO charles.mikkola@fhwa.dot.gov